

### From Our Early Files

**DECEMBER 27th, 1935**  
The first heavy snow of the 1935-36 winter descended upon Raeford and the county Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Baker and daughters left Wednesday to visit relatives at Pine Level.

Mr. and Mrs. K. A. MacDonald left Saturday to spend the Christmas holidays with Mrs. MacDonald's relatives at Cape Charles, Va.

Thomas Cameron, who attends Davidson, is home for the holidays. Robert Cameron, a student at Randolph Macon academy, is home also.

The county commissioners have taken under advisement a plan for the construction of a new gymnasium at the new Hoke county high school.

Two volumes of currently popular fiction and non-fiction have recently been added to the collection of books in the Hoke county library.

A carload of classroom furniture for use in the new Hoke county high school arrived a few days ago.

Dr. R. L. Murray, county physician

## La Befana, Penitent Old Woman, Brings Christmas Gifts in Italy

Santa Claus doesn't visit children in Italy. It isn't because they are all naughty, but because there is no Santa Claus in Italy.

No one runs down to a well decorated tree on Christmas morning to look for presents. Brightly colored



La Befana still carries her presents for the Christ Child.

flowers decorate the room instead of Christmas trees, and presents are not exchanged until January 6.

On that night, an old, old lady, La Befana, walks from house to house and leaves a present beside each little child she visits.

Exactly 1,940 years ago, according to the Italian legend, La Befana was very busy sweeping her kitchen

when several men dressed like kings stopped in front of her cottage. They asked her where Bethlehem was, but she had never heard of it.

The men told her about a baby which had been born in Bethlehem, and mentioned a star which had been guiding them. The old lady wished she could accompany them when they left her in search of the infant Jesus.

But La Befana stayed home. It was getting too dark, out, and besides, the baby could wait until tomorrow. Later that night she noticed the sky quivering with light. The clouds seemed to take the form of angels. All thought of sleep left her. Rising, she carefully wrapped two gifts for the Holy Baby, then ran out into the night in the direction the kings had gone.

Fast as she hurried, she had not reached Bethlehem when the star disappeared and dawn filled the sky. She frantically asked the way to Bethlehem, but no one could tell her.

And so La Befana has constantly traveled since that day, searching for the Christ Child. On the Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas, she goes from house to house, looking into the faces of babies. With each she leaves a gift, hoping that at last she will give her presents to the right child.

and general practitioner, occupied his new office on Monday evening.

Raeford and Hoke county celebrated Christmas in a stupendously big way with most of the local merchants reporting the best business in years.

Tax collections to date have amounted to only about 25 per cent of the gross levy, according to Sheriff D. H. Hodgins. Sheriff Hodgins stated that this was about the same percentage of collections as last year at this time.

John Rufus Floyd of Bogue Sound, is visiting relatives during the holidays.

#### DECEMBER 26th, 1930

The store of Dundarrach trading company was entered and robbed Tuesday of last week. Between \$5 and 40 cases of goods were stolen.

Letters to Santa Claus, in the News-Journal, included: Dear Santa Claus, I am a little girl seven years old. I want a doll, baby and a glass tea set. I have been listening to you over the radio every night. I have a little sister three years old. She wants a baby doll carriage and a toy basket. I am a very good little girl and hope you will have a Merry Christmas. With love, Martha and Betty Barrington.

One of the finest Christmas services ever remembered in Raeford was given

in the Presbyterian church Sunday night at 7:30. The church was simply but beautifully decorated in red and green. In the choir there was a background of cedar and the choir was flanked by four stands bearing long, red tapers. The service was arranged and given by the young people of the three churches of Raeford. There was a choir of 60 voices.

Robert Gatlin, of N. C. State College is spending the holidays with his family.

Prof. J. F. Lowrance is recovering nicely from recent burns.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Rowland are spending the holidays with homefolks in Durham and Wendell.

#### FEWER

According to reports compiled by the National Livestock Marketing Association, there will be smaller numbers of hogs on farms in the United States in 1941 than in the year just closing.

## Straight from the Shoulder

BY JOHN BARDEE

It is not a Christian Christmas we celebrate in America; it is a pagan Xmas. So far as the spirit of Christmas is concerned we might well say "X" marks the spot where Christ was. I heard a lady say that she told her little daughter that Santa Claus was the spirit of Christmas.

This is another straw in the wind to show the general trend of a generation who want to keep the traditions and enjoy the benefits and conveniences of Christianity, but they turn their backs on the lovely Christ to wrap their presents.

In order to enjoy Christmas we must know the Savior personally. So many do not know the real joy of a simple knowledge of His saving grace. We do not have to dash here and there, tasting the thrills of lust and passion to enjoy Christmas. In the heart of a Christian is a serene peace and bubbling joy that the unbelieving world cannot know.

What a contrast to the Goddess masses. With them it is a whirl of shopping, dancing, drinking, rioting, and a "good time." I am not speaking of the poor and common people only, but refer to every class of soc-

#### SYRUP

A Texas farmer is converting watermelon juice into a syrup by pressing the juice from the meat and boiling it down, ten gallons of juice making one gallon of deep red syrup.

#### OUTSTANDING

Because of his excellent record, Joseph Stockton of the Green Creek club has been named the outstanding 4-H club boy of Polk county, reports S. H. Dobson, assistant farm agent.

#### Put Proper Postage On Christmas Mail

Unsealed Christmas cards will carry for one and one-half cents postage. These cards may bear a simple inscription, which must not be in the nature of personal correspondence. Examples: "Merry Christmas," "With Best Wishes," "Merry Christmas." Be sure the weight of the card and cover does not exceed two ounces.

Letters may not be enclosed with Christmas packages. Such enclosure would make the package first-class. In fourth class or parcel post packages, written greetings such as "Merry Christmas," with identifying names, may be enclosed. Books may bear simple non-personal dedicatory inscriptions. They are carried at a special rate of one and one-half cents per pound.

Low Round-Trip Fares

## HOME for the HOLIDAYS

Follow an OLD Custom in a NEW Super-Coach

Jacksonville	\$9.65	Raleigh	\$2.20
Orlando	\$15.00	Washington	\$3.20
Miami	\$17.10	New York	\$13.95

Union Bus Station

### GREYHOUND

May the best of everything be yours this Christmas is the sincere wish of every person in this organization. What happier thought to share with you at this season than the mutual regard which has made our relations so pleasant in the past, promises the same confidence between us in the future. May this 1940 Christmas be the happiest you have ever known.

## HOME FOOD MARKET



### THE NEWS-JOURNAL STAFF

- Mrs. Paul Dickson
- Billy Whitted
- Thomas Hall
- J. Mier Davis
- Albert L. Beck
- Cecil Teal



## DUNDARRACH TRADING COMPANY

19 BEST WISHES 40

for Christmas-time

## RAEFORD DRY CLEANERS

# Preparedness!



\* The Cape Fear steam electric generating plant is but one of the many symbols of our preparedness. It was built to operate in conjunction with our hydro-electric generating stations, and other sources of power, to insure a continuous flow of power at all times.

Suddenly the number one concern of this country is PREPAREDNESS. Huge sums of money are being appropriated and industry is being transformed "overnight" to safeguard the American System of Democracy. Fortunately the Utility Industry is ready without warring to speed the production of defense equipment. Even in times of peace an electric util-

ity must be prepared for emergencies. It has been our company's policy to build in advance of actual demand — to anticipate emergencies as well as progress. The plant pictured above is one among the many electric generating stations ready to supply the demands which industry may make upon us as a result of the defense program in the territory we serve.



## CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY